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UA3/9 2012 Fall Mid-Semester Update

WKU President's Office

Gary Ransdell

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From: Gary Ransdell
To: Faculty-All; Staff-All
Subject: 2012 Fall Mid-Semester Update
Date: Fri. 11/2/2012 10:11AM

Fellow Faculty and Staff:

As the fall 2012 semester passes the midpoint, I wanted to acknowledge a couple of things with you. First, congratulations to the staff in Development and Alumni Relations on the successful conclusion of our \$202 million Capital Campaign which we celebrated a few weeks ago. We are especially grateful to the donors who helped achieve this Campaign with their personal gifts—including a number of faculty and staff. If you have not seen the Campaign video, I encourage you to take a look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poikcRPfXwI>. This was a fun video for all who participated!

I also want to compliment our staff in Enrollment Management for their diligent efforts to ensure that we sustain a stable enrollment profile. The final enrollment numbers this fall are 21,124. More important were the efforts of a number of Enrollment Management staff in finding ways to reinstate more than 330 students who had been dropped for non-payment a few weeks ago. Given the size of our student population, we normally lose several hundred students each fall who simply do not or cannot pay their tuition bills. This year, however, we were able to work with many of them to create payment plans and find a way to be retained. This will help our retention numbers going forward as well.

Finally, I want to acknowledge a couple of dates during which we will be closed. As you know, Election Day is next Tuesday, November 6. We will be closed that day, so make sure to take the time to vote. The second closing announcement relates to the two days in which we are scheduled to be open on December 17 and 18. After discussing our options with the Administrative Council, we have decided that it would be in everyone's best interest to officially close on Monday and Tuesday, December 17 and 18—thereby, extending our Christmas Break by two days. As is always the case on the days following our Commencement Ceremony, appropriate staff will be available to help faculty to get final grades in and ensure that the semester is brought to an appropriate close. Most faculty and staff will be able to wrap up your business as you deem appropriate and begin your Christmas holidays as soon as possible after our December Commencement.

In the meantime, let's all continue to work hard for the last six weeks of the semester, so that our students can remain fully engaged and get as much value as possible from their WKU experience.

Thanks, everyone. Keep up the good work.

Gary A. Ransdell